

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03415 290827Z
ACTION EUR-12

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USDA FOR FAS (G&F)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK RECORD GRAIN HARVEST

REF: BUDAPEST 3294

1. ACCORDING TO FEDERAL MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE NAGR
CZECHOSLOVAK CROP PRODUCTION IN 1977 ON THE WHOLE REACHED
NEW RECORDS. GRAIN HARVEST EXCEEDED SLIGHTLY THE OLD
RECORD SET IN 1974, SUGAR BEET HARVEST WAS THE THIRD
HIGHEST ON RECORD DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS, AND RAPESEED
AND HOPS PRODUCTION EXCEEDED THE PLANNED TARGETS. IN
ADDITION CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD ALSO A GOOD FODDER CROP. AS
A RESULT OF THESE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
WILL BE ABLE TO MEET MOST IF NOT ALL IST PROCUREMENT
GOALS.

2. COMMENTS: ALTHOUGH FINAL NUMERICAL RESULTS FOR THE
1977 GRAIN CROP ARE STILL MISSING THE ABOVE "RIDDLE"
SUGGESTS THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S GRAIN HARVEST IN
1977 MAY HAVE COME CLOSE TO 10.4 MIL TONS, SLIGHTLY
ABOVE THE 10.36 MIL TONS ATTAINED IN 1974. APPARENTLY
THE NEW RECORD WAS AIDED BY AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD
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CORN CROP OF AROUND 1 MIL TONS.

3. THE ESTIMATED 10.4 MIL TONS GRAIN HARVEST,
400,000 TONS MORE THAN TARGETED, COMES SOMEWHAT AS
A SURPRISE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE
HEAVY RAINS WHICH FLATTENED WIDE AREAS OF GRAIN
AND DELAYED HARVEST FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN THE CZECH LANDS

(65 PERCENT NATION'S GRAIN CROP) DID NOT LEAVE ITS
OBVIOUS MARK ON THE CROP. OFFICIALS UNTIL NOW
SPOKE OF AROUND A 10 MIL TON GRAIN CORP(SEE REFTEL).
APPARENTLY A GOOD CORN HARVEST PUSHED THIS TONNAGE
HIGHER.

4. IF IN FACT THE HARVESTED 10.4 MIL TON REMAINS
UNREVISED (DOWNWARD), CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE
COMING SEASON SHOULD IMPORT SOME 500,000 TONS LESS
GRAIN THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. THIS WOULD PLACE
CZECHOSLOVAK 1977/78 GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
AT AROUND 1.2 MIL TONS.
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